



The Groundplane

ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA-The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

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President's Corner - August 2015

Welcome to August...Zucchini Festival time! I'll let you read more about that in Al's article, though.

At the last meeting, I mentioned that Umesh and I, and others, as members of the Fremont Communications Volunteers, have been helping out the Fremont Fire Department with programming their VHF radios that are used when they are out of the area. Umesh has been contributing quite a bit in the area of Excel macros, too, to help validate that data and generate the code plug files.



We spent the better part of a Sunday, a couple of weeks ago, going from station to station. It was a lot of fun meeting all of the fire fighters and programming the HT and mobile radios. But what was an unexpected treat, at least for me, was some of the equipment housed at some of the stations.

For me, like many of us, there is a part of my childhood that I haven't outgrown...a fascination for trucks in general...and especially fire trucks!



Last year, the City of Fremont acquired their new Mobile Command Center. It is a vehicle that

is designed to be shared by the Fire Department as well as the Police Department. [NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "APPARATUS." Write this word down on a piece of

paper and hand it to Ray at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.]



It is still a dream of mine to have this vehicle visit us for Field Day! We shall see.

If you like classic trucks, check out this old Peterbilt, which is a historical vehicle!



I was at Station #3 when this monster rolled in. I had no idea we had a huge water tender!

And last, but certainly not least...I thought this 4x4 was one of the coolest vehicles in the Fremont FD fleet!



Yes...I know...a little bit off topic, but hope you enjoyed.

73!

Steve KG6HJU

2015 Zucchini Festival

SBARA Fundraiser

August 15th and 16th



Here is your chance to help the club with its only yearly fundraiser and a chance to win a \$250 HRO gift certificate. How? By signing up for your shifts at this year's Hayward Zucchini Festival.

Good news...You can now sign up on-line and reserve the shift you want. Go to the club's webpage www.sbara.org and select from the menu bar on the left side of the page, (Annual Events > Zucchini Festival > Sign-up Online) Follow the instructions on the sign-up webpage. Be sure to fill out the information at the bottom of the page and copy and enter the security code where indicated.

Last year this event brought in over \$1300 to the SBARA Treasury! You working a shift for the club really does make a difference. This year's festival is August 15th and 16th, at Kennedy Park in Hayward.

For you new members that volunteer, the week before the Festival Mike Fung WA6AWI will send you a packet with the tickets, maps, parking instructions and a food voucher for lunch. The instructions will inform you to check in at the Communication Tent where you will be assigned an FRS radio and where to go. We use our communication skills to communicate requests from the Ticket Booth back to the Administrator at the Communication Tent, and in reverse, from the Administrator to the Ticket Booth personnel. For example, the ticket booth may need change and they will ask you to request some to be brought to their booth. Also, you will check people coming back in after leaving earlier for a 'stamp' indicating they have already paid. So there is a Security aspect to the work you will do.

You can bring up to four family members to enjoy the festival while you work your shift. There is a box on the webpage sign-up form to indicate the number of family member tickets you want.

We have 24 shifts on Saturday and Sunday to fill, so please help SBARA by filling one (or more) of the slots on the sign-up form. We were able to buy a new Elecraft KPA 500 amplifier and pay all Field Day expenses because of our membership's generous donation of their time at last year's Hayward Zucchini Festival. This is the only fundraiser SBARA has and it is a MAJOR financial asset to the organization.

Hope to see you there this year.

73,
Al
wt6k

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday (on 144.230 MHz) and Sunday (on 7.057 MHz \pm 3 KHz) night at 7:30 pm.
You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this net.

The net now has its own email address. Please contact us here:

"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts@googlegroups.com>

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Bernhard AE6YN

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net is take place....Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

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Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Membership meeting this Friday, August 14th at 7:30 p.m. Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court (off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont

This month's speaker is Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, on "Ground is A Myth!" Ground is something you stand on, but in an electrical sense, the meaning is much less clear. When it comes to Hams and ground, things get really confused. We drive rods into the earth, but why? Let's take a look at whether any of this makes sense, and what theory tells us about "ground", and if it exists in any sensible way at all. We'll talk about DC grounds, RF grounds, and even about gravity.

BIO: Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, has been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She started in Amateur Radio in 1979 getting her ticket while at MIT. Kristen has worked in many diverse areas from analog circuit design to image processing to starting and running an ISP. She is currently working at Apple in Core OS, and spent many years at Sun Microsystems Laboratories where she was researching robustness and emergent properties of large distributed computer systems. She is a long time denizen of Silicon Valley and has worked at or consulted for many of the usual suspects. Kristen is an active ham and loves to chase DX on HF with her Elecraft K2 which she built while visiting her mother in Florida. She is an ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section, president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc. (PAARA), and is active in many local clubs.

**Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-meeting dinner.
Ho Chow Restaurant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont. (510) 657-0683**